

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 16-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 16-29 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-15 have been cancelled, therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot.

As amended, the present application addresses the problem of dropping a communication when a wireless terminal attempts to handover from a first access point (AP) in a first extended service set (ESS) to a second AP located in different ESS. It is contemplated that the method is applicable in IEEE 802-type wireless networks, which do not effectively address such a situation, and in which a significant portion of ongoing communications would ordinarily be dropped before handover could be accomplished. Faster handover is accomplished by introducing an association request message, which identifies the first and second APs and the

first ESS. The association request message is sent by the terminal to the second AP to request a connection, when the terminal's connection with the first AP has been lost. Prior art 802-type networks do not identify the APs and the first ESS in the association request message. Through the use of the expanded association request message, it is possible to more quickly establish that the first and second APs are in different ESSs, and to more quickly initiate handover procedures. The address of the first AR needed for handover can be acquired from the terminal or from a database in the first ESS, and handover procedures can be initiated by the terminal or by a device in the second ESS.

Jawanda is directed to an entirely different problem, and works in a way which is easily distinguished from the present application. Jawanda is directed to the problem of maintaining an ongoing communication session while switching between multiple wireless data connections while maintaining an application-level session. (column 6 lines 14-15). Jawanda pertains to the handover of a communication between different wireless interfaces, and contemplates wireless interfaces of different interface technologies, reciting in every embodiment and claim a handover between at least a cellular system and a non-cellular system. Thus, Jawanda requires the use of multiple wireless interfaces. In contrast, the present application uses only a single wireless interface. Furthermore, Jawanda requires the use of a network access arbitrator, which monitors the multiple wireless interfaces for available connections, chooses a preferred one, and manages handover of an ongoing session from one to another. In contrast, the present

application, having only a single network interface, does not use anything like the network access arbitrator in Jawanda.

The other prior art rejections of the Office Action are combinations which depend on Jawanda for features which, as described above, are easily distinguished from the present application. Thus, applicant believes the present application is distinguishable from those combinations as well.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is patentably distinct from the prior art. Reconsideration of the application and a favorable determination of patentability are respectfully requested.


Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 16-29, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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